

Our 111th year of serving the Carbondale area -- home of Catherine Giblin

# Carbondale News

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## Zapotok and Scombordi discuss new and old postal facilities and dress code

Carbondale Postmaster Gerald P. Barrett is presently on sick leave and Joseph Zapotok, superintendent of the Kingston Branch of the Wilkes-Barre Post Office, is filling in for Barrett during his leave.

### NEW BUILDING

We asked Zapotok and superintendent of Postal Operations at the Carbondale Post Office, Louis J. Scombordi, for a progress report on the new postal facility that is being built on Dundaff Street, and were told by Scombordi that "everything is on schedule with the construction of the new building, in spite of the fact that during the early phase of construction of the new facility a sewer line was struck, which adversely affected the work schedule for a time." Scombordi further reported that "the new building is 22 percent completed and that the target completion date is January 1984." When asked if the problem with the sewer line made it necessary to redesign or restructure the new building, Scombordi stated: "The design of the building has remained the same. The position of the building on the

lot was changed, however. The building will be built approximately 20 feet away from the sewer line and not directly over it."

### OLD BUILDING

With reference to the future use of the present post office building on North Main Street and Lincoln Avenue, Scombordi told the NEWS that "there are no new developments with the present building." The United States Postal Service has promised the Carbondale Historical Society that it will make certain that the new owner of the building will preserve and protect the exterior of the building. That promise was made by the senior assistant Postmaster General F. X. Biglin, in his letter of December 22, 1982 to the president of the Carbondale Historical Society, S. Robert Powell. Biglin stated: "The Postal Service recognizes the exterior architectural integrity of the old (post office) building (in Carbondale), and we have taken steps to see that it will be protected when it is sold. Covenants will be included in the deed of conveyance which will require

the new owner to preserve the exterior. He will be required to consult with the Pennsylvania Historical Preservation officer prior to making any changes."

### DRESS CODE

Several readers of the NEWS have recently asked: "What's going on with the Post Office's dress code? Don't the carriers have to wear uniforms these days?" We asked Zapotok and Scombordi those questions and Zapotok stated that "the dress code is very much in effect. The reason you may see carriers not wearing uniforms is that new employees are not granted a clothing allowance until they have completed their 90-day probationary period. At that time, they can then place an order for uniforms at one of the licensed vendors of postal uniforms." "After the order is placed," Scombordi added, "it sometimes takes as long as 30 days for it to be filled, which means that it could be as much as four months after a new employee begins working for the Postal Service before he or she has a uniform to wear."



NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING -- Steelwork outlines the shape the new Post Office will take when completed. The new facility is being built because the current structure is not large enough and is not designed for modern mail handling procedures. (NEWS Photo)

## Moro presents financial plan to City Council

Carbondale City Council met for one hour on Monday night to discuss a proposal by Councilwoman Charlotte Moro that would provide adequate annual funding for the police and firemen's pension plans and that would gradually reduce the unfunded prior service liabilities of both plans without the necessity of a tax increase.

Specifically, Mrs. Moro proposed that the City Council create, by ordinance, a special fund that would be supported by three mills that would be available if the sinking fund millage were reduced from six to three mills. A review of the city's bonded indebtedness, Mrs. Moro pointed out, reveals that six mills are no longer needed to meet sinking fund obligations.

Managing Director Joseph Masco indicated that the three mills in question were transferred from the general fund to the sinking fund and that to transfer those three mills to a special pension fund would leave the general fund three mills short. A three mill tax increase would, therefore, be necessary.

Mrs. Moro further proposed that the police and firemen's contributions to the pension funds be increased from four to ten percent. Workers in private industry at present contribute on the average of 14 percent to the Social Security plan, Mrs. Moro stated.

Mr. Masco indicated that four percent appears to be the maximum allowable contribution by city police and firemen, and that it may not be possible to increase those contributions by police and firemen to ten percent.

City Council, in addition, discussed the possibility of the city's floating a loan to take care of the city's indebtedness. Councilman James McMyne brought up the idea of instituting two self-destruct taxes: a garbage tax and a meter tax (in order to pay the city's PP&L bill).

Councilman Albert Calzola made a call for cooperation not only on the part of the legislative and administrative branches of the city government but also on the part of the entire community to solve the multitude of problems, financial and otherwise, that are presently confronting the city of Carbondale.

*Both of these articles were written  
by S.R.P., who, for various reasons,  
chose not to sign either.*